



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Monthly Update – January 2007

Matthew Bettenhausen
Director

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

Key Announcements, Initiatives and News

California Receives High Marks for Communications Interoperability

On January 3, the US Department of Homeland Security (US-DHS) released scorecards on their Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICP) that were exercised in urban areas across the country last fall. Interoperable communication is an essential component of disaster response and encompasses the ability to communicate across jurisdictional and disciplinary lines.

The scorecards provided assessments of the tactical interoperable communications systems for each urban area which can be used to identify goals that require additional focus in both near- and longer-term activities. The scorecards also provided recommendations on how to best enhance tactical interoperability with existing communications technologies in the near-term. California's cities were among the top in the nation.

The following nine urban areas were evaluated by DHS: San Francisco, San Jose, San Diego, Oakland, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Sacramento, Anaheim and Santa Ana. Of the nine, seven achieved the highest rating of "advanced" in at least one of three measurement categories while two others achieved an "established" rating – the second highest – in at least one category.

These results are good news for California and validate the commitment and focus by State and local officials to meet this critical priority. Since 2002, California has invested over \$200 million of homeland security funding to enhance communication interoperability among first responders. The Office of Homeland Security works closely with emergency response agencies throughout the state to make informed decisions concerning the effective use of allocated resources for communications interoperability. The State is working to expand TICPs beyond the Urban Areas for coverage throughout the entire state.

Communications interoperability is a component of most of the training exercises coordinated by the Office of Homeland Security and is a significant component of the annual Golden Guardian exercise. Exercises such as Golden Guardian help advance California's interoperability efforts and gives the state the opportunity to identify and resolve deficiencies prior to the occurrence of a major natural disaster or terrorist event.

For more information about California's efforts relative to communications interoperability, please contact Robert Samaan at robert.samaan@ohs.ca.gov.

Sacramento and San Diego Maintain Homeland Security Funding Eligibility

On January 5, the federal Department of Homeland Security (US-DHS) released its grant guidance for FY 07 homeland security grant funds. The grant guidance describes the process US-DHS will use to distribute more than \$1.6 billion in homeland security funds to states and urban areas.

The guidance listed the urban areas nationwide that are eligible to compete for Urban Area Security Initiative funds. These funds are in addition to the funds given to the state and are targeted to urban areas deemed to be at higher risk for a terrorism incident based on a number of risk factors. Last year, California had five designated Urban Areas (Bay Area, Los Angeles/Long Beach, Anaheim/Santa Ana, Sacramento and San Diego), but US-DHS had planned to drop Sacramento and San Diego from the list for FY 07 despite the fact they received more than \$15 million in grants combined in 2006.

After a number of meetings between State and US-DHS officials, including meetings between Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and US-DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff, as well as efforts by members of California's congressional delegation and local leaders in San Diego and Sacramento, US-DHS announced that both San Diego and Sacramento would remain eligible for funds this year. While being eligible to apply for funding does not guarantee homeland security funding, the decision was a crucial step toward ensuring San Diego and Sacramento are able continue their efforts to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from acts of terrorism or natural disasters.

The grant guidance, for the first time, created a tiered system for categorizing urban areas based on a risk formula. In the new system, six urban areas nationwide – including the Los Angeles/Long Beach and Bay Area urban areas – will compete for 55% of the funding (\$411 million) available in the Urban Area Security Initiative. The balance of the cities – including the San Diego, Sacramento and Anaheim/Santa Ana areas – will compete for the remaining 45% (\$336 million).

The release of the grant guidance starts the clock on the process for applying for homeland security funds. Homeland Security Grant Program applications that apply to most statewide and local jurisdictions are due April 5 and funds are to be awarded by July 2.

For more information on the grant funding process, please contact Larry Davis at larry.davis@ohs.ca.gov.

California's Ports See Reversal of Fortune on Funding

On January 9, US-DHS announced that a number of California Ports will receive an increase in federal homeland security funding in 2007. The announcement signaled a significant change to US-DHS' much criticized port security allocation of 2006.

California's two major commercial port regions, Los Angeles/Long Beach and the Bay Area will see a significant increase in funding over last year. Bay Area Ports (San Francisco, Oakland, Stockton and Richmond) will see a \$10 million increase in funding -- from \$1 million combined to over \$11 million combined. The ports of LA and Long Beach will receive an increase of nearly \$3 million --

from \$12 to \$14.7 million. San Diego, a Tier 3 port which received only \$139,000 in 2006, will be eligible to compete for a share of \$30 million as will Port Hueneme.

In FY 06, California saw its share of port funding sharply decline following a US-DHS decision to provide no money to the Port of Oakland, the nation's fourth busiest port. Following that decision Governor Schwarzenegger and other State officials criticized US-DHS for shortchanging California ports. In September 2006, Governor Schwarzenegger sent a letter to Congressional leadership asking them to ensure that federal grants to improve port security are allocated based on an accurate assessment of risk and needs. In addition, Director Bettenhausen met with US-DHS officials numerous times over the past several months following last year's funding decision.

The pressure from Governor Schwarzenegger, California Office of Homeland Security Director Matthew Bettenhausen, port officials and members of California's congressional delegation to correct flaws in the funding analysis led to a significant change to the 2007 port security grant guidance. First, Tier 1 port regions such as Los Angeles/Long Beach and the Bay Area will not have to compete for funds. Instead they will receive a determined allocation immediately rather than having to go through an application process. In many cases, such as in the Bay Area, multiple ports have been grouped together to reflect geographic proximity, shared risk and a common waterway. Nationally, eight port regions have been identified as Tier 1. The changes mark a significant improvement for California ports.

The US-DHS Infrastructure Protection Program is a primary funding mechanisms designed to strengthen the Nation's ability to protect critical infrastructure ranging from mass transit to seaports. Port Security Grants specifically provide funding to reduce the risk of successful attacks against critical port infrastructure.

For more information about port security, please contact Jessica Cummins at jessica.cummins@ohs.ca.gov.

OHS Holds Statewide Capability Review Conference

In December, the Office of Homeland Security convened a three-day Capability Review Conference with over 300 first responders from across the state. The purpose of the conference was to develop a Capability Enhancement Plan and Investment Justifications which will be submitted as part of California's FY 2007 Homeland Security Grant (HSGP) application. On the first day, Director Bettenhausen and other senior state preparedness officials provided an overview of their agencies' missions, accomplishments in homeland security and visions for the future. In addition, the California Disaster Resource and Capability Preparedness Assessment Project (CDRACPAP), a presentation on a new joint initiative between OHS and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), was presented to our Homeland Security partners.

Director Bettenhausen also convened a meeting of California's Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) jurisdictions, which include: San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose (Bay Area UASI); Sacramento; Los Angeles and Long Beach (LA UASI); Anaheim and Santa Ana (Orange County UASI); and San Diego. The purpose of this meeting was to underscore the importance of aligning urban area investment justifications to the overall state plan, provide a better understanding of OHS' policies on approving grant extensions, and discussing advocacy efforts for FY 2008 federal funds.

During the remainder of the conference, federal, state and local stakeholders worked together in 15 facilitated breakout sessions. The facilitators, who are subject matter experts from state agencies with primary responsibility for the discipline and capabilities being reviewed, worked with the breakout session participants to strengthen the state's HSGP application to US DHS for FY 2007 grants. Five regional UASI meetings, which were open to all stakeholders, were also convened. In addition there were statewide port security and transit security meetings where California's Area Maritime Security Councils (MARSAC) and four Regional Transit Security Working Groups (RTSWG) discussed issues of common interest. Participants also had the opportunity to attend grant writing and grant management workshops conducted by OHS Grants Management Section staff.

For more information on the conference or issues related to homeland security grants, please contact Larry Davis at larry.davis@ohs.ca.gov.

OHS Continues Grant Training and Outreach for Local Grant Administrators

In January, OHS held grant training and outreach meetings in six California cities, continuing OHS' efforts to ensure local communities have the access to state grant administrators to ask questions and clarify issues relative to expenditure of homeland security funds. January's sessions were held in Clovis, Dublin, Santa Ana, Riverside, Rocklin and Redding and build upon the 53 similar sessions held in 2006. These meetings have given local homeland security representatives the opportunity to provide input into the grant management process and led to a number of changes that make the grants easier to administer at the local level.

For more information on the conference or issues related to homeland security grants, please contact Larry Davis at larry.davis@ohs.ca.gov.

Sacramento Regional Homeland Security and Training Center Opens

On January 17, Director Bettenhausen participated in the opening of the Sacramento Regional Homeland Security and Training Center at McClellan. Included in the Center is the Sacramento Regional Terrorism Threat Assessment Center (RTTAC) to which the State has dedicated \$4 million to date. OHS has four analysts assigned to the RTTAC. Director Bettenhausen represented the State in a press conference with federal and local officials to announce the opening of the Center. This is the second of four of California's RTTACs to officially open, the first being the Joint Regional Intelligence Center in Los Angeles in July 2006. While the other two in San Diego and San Francisco have yet to officially open the doors at their physical locations, federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in those regions have been operating "virtual" RTTACs for over a year.

In 2003, OHS initiated the development of the regional information sharing approach that led to the creation of the State Terrorism Threat Assessment Center (STTAC) and the four RTTACs. Governor Schwarzenegger furthered the State's commitment to a robust information sharing network by directing an initial \$10 million investment to the establishment of the STTAC and RTTACs from the State's share of federal homeland security grant funds. OHS has since contributed a total of \$20 million to the operations of both the STTAC and the RTTACs. Together with our federal, state and local law enforcement partners, we have established the largest, most highly advanced and fully integrated state information sharing network in the country.

Terrorism Liaison Officer Program Expansion

OHS' Terrorism Liaison Officer (TLO) Program connects dedicated law enforcements, public safety and key agency personnel with the latest information and analysis products from the entire range of federal, state and local counter-terrorism sources through a web-based portal. Originally designed for sworn law enforcement officers in the field, it has now expanded to include major state government agencies with the completion of the second iteration of agency nominees being trained this past month. The program now has over 900 trained officers in state and local government.

The portal, the California Joint Regional Information Exchange System, has a searchable document library, daily postings and a collaboration tool (Groove-tm) for direct peer-to-peer networking on specific subject areas. The TLO concept, connected to the four Regional Terrorism Threat Assessment Centers in San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Sacramento, as well as the State Terrorism Threat Assessment Center, has expanded information sharing and outreach throughout California's law enforcement agencies, and is now expanding across a wider range of public safety agencies at the state and local level.

For more information about the TLO program, please contact George Aradi at george.aradi@ohs.ca.gov.

California Receives \$1 million Award for Operation Stonegarden to Support Local Border Security Efforts

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced grant awards to the four Southwest Border States (California, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas) in support of ongoing local law enforcement efforts at the border. The funding will assist local authorities with operational costs and equipment purchases that contribute to border security. California is also slated to receive a portion of an additional \$2.9 million made available to the four Southwest Border States. In an effort to improve our regional homeland security efforts in the southwestern United States, the Office of Homeland Security submitted an application to US-DHS for a regional interoperability and information sharing plan on behalf of the four states.

For more information regarding Operation Stonegarden, please contact Robert Samaan at robert.samaan@ohs.ca.gov.

Preventive Radiological and Nuclear Detection Plan

The Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) which is part of the US-DHS has committed to provide program assistance to OHS toward the development of California's Statewide Preventive Radiological and Nuclear Detection Plan. Over the next several weeks DNDO will facilitate several conference calls with OHS culminating in a three-day working session in Sacramento in late January.

For more information about the Statewide Preventive Radiological and Nuclear Detection Plan, please contact Elaine Jennings at elaine.jennings@ohs.ca.gov.

OHS Staff Member Selected as Advisory Board Member for the National Center for Biomedical Research and Training (NCBRT) Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education.

Jim Ayre, Assistant Deputy Director of the Training Division within OHS was selected to serve as a member of the NCBRT Training Advisory Board. Mr. Ayre's role as a board member will be to assist the NCBRT to better identify the needs of states relative to identifying gaps in training, institutionalizing training with states, improving communications and resources, enhancing technical assistance to the states and validating training programs. This group will develop long-range strategic planning within NCBRT to better meet the needs of OHS' first responder partners in defending against acts of terrorism and to better respond to high-consequence events.

Mass Transit Initiative Seminar

On January 25, OHS and Caltrans hosted the first statewide "Security and Preparedness" seminar to kick off OHS' Mass Transit Initiative. This is the first in a series of exercises coordinated by OHS and Caltrans in an effort to improve capabilities to prevent and deter terrorist acts against mass transit systems.

As we have seen a number of times around the world, mass transit systems are often targets of terrorist attacks. Using the information we have learned from those attacks, we are able to work with mass transit systems to develop exercises that make those important systems better prepared. The purpose of the seminar was to bring transit agencies together to discuss common security issues and concerns and discuss best practices and lessons learned. The one-day seminar consisted of speakers, discussion panels and breakout sessions.

For more information regarding the Mass Transit Initiative Seminar, please contact David Torgerson at david.torgerson@hs.ca.gov.

Be on the Lookout for These Upcoming Events/Announcements

2nd Annual OHS Regional Conferences

The Governor's Office of Homeland Security will be holding the 2nd Annual Regional Conference for the Southern Region at the Long Beach Convention Center February 21-23 and for the Northern Region March 13-15 at the Marriott Oakland City Center. The conference will provide attendees with information on Homeland Security Issues within the State and offer vital information on program changes for the upcoming Fiscal Year.

For more information on the conferences, please go to www.homeland.ca.gov or contact Denise Banker at denise.banker@hs.ca.gov.

California K-9 Units Participate in 2-Month Antiterrorism Canine Training Program in Israel

In February, eight K-9 handlers from California law enforcement agencies will travel to Israel to train on the use of canines in the field of terrorism prevention and deterrence. California is the first state to participate in this exchange program, "Pups for Peace," with Israel because of the unique advantages this training program offers. Some of the advantages are: a one-of-a-kind training environment, exclusive explosive training in the context of anti-terrorism training, training on explosive ingredients not found in the United States and providing two dogs to each handler. Santa Clara Sheriff, San Francisco PD, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department and Alameda County Sheriff's Office are participating in the program. The handlers will return in April with their dogs.

For more information regarding the Pups for Peace program, please contact Frank Quiambao at frank.quiambao@ohs.ca.gov.

Inaugural California Maritime Security Council Meeting

In October 2006, Governor Schwarzenegger signed an Executive Order creating the California Maritime Security Council (CMSC) to provide coordination and information sharing between the federal, state and local governments at our ports and to develop strategies and policies for ensuring our ports' homeland security needs are being met. The CMSC is comprised of top officials from OHS, U.S. Coast Guard, BT&H, National Guard, U.S. Navy and other agencies as well as Directors of California's major ports and representatives from the labor and business communities. The CMSC will soon meet for the first time with a number of issues including the recent US-DHS port funding announcements, the allocation of the \$100 million in port security grants from Proposition 1B and implementation of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program.

OHS Professional Profile

OHS has been fortunate enough to attract some of the best and brightest from a number of homeland security related sectors. Every month, OHS will profile a member of the team as a way to better acquaint you with some of the talented leaders at OHS.

This month's profile is of Jessica Cummins, Deputy Director for Planning, Research and Emergency Preparedness

Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Jessica to the California Governor's Office of Homeland Security just over a year ago. As Deputy Director for Planning, Research and Emergency Preparedness, her responsibilities include reviewing and revising the State of California's Homeland Security Strategy, consistent collaboration and planning with six other California state agencies that are instrumental with Prevention, Protection, Response and Recovery efforts and research of current topics, initiatives and trends impacting the safety and security of the people of California. Jessica also serves as the federal/state/local liaison for Maritime Security, Pandemic Influenza, Nuclear Preparedness, National Incident Management System and Agro-Bio-Security.

Jessica came to OHS with a wealth of law enforcement and disaster preparation and response experience here in California, as well as in other high-profile incidents of national significance. Just prior to joining OHS, she was an Assistant Chief of Police of the San Diego Harbor Police

Department and Homeland Security Coordinator for the Port of San Diego. Jessica was responsible for the implementation and planning efforts related to the Homeland Security mission on Port tidelands, in the bay, at the cruise ship terminal and two import/export terminals, as well as at the San Diego Regional Airport.

As a Major in the Oklahoma City Police Department, Jessica commanded 150 sworn officers and served as Co-Commander of the Emergency Response Team. In that role, she responded to three federal disasters that include the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, the May 3, 1999 F-5 tornado and was the Incident Commander for the June 8&9, 2003 F-4 tornados. She also served on the Oklahoma Homeland Security Task Force and Grant Working Group.

Among a number of advanced education achievements, Jessica holds a certification Homeland Security -Level V from the American College of Forensic Examiners International and is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy. OHS and the people of California are luck to have Jessica working to keep this State safe.